

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ACDA-07 SAB-01 SY-05

A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /097 W

----- 047283

Z O 031130Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9354

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SP

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2913

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STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL APRIL 3:
CEASEFIRE IS YAANI HOLDING

REF: BEIRUT 2897 (DTG 021424Z APR 76)

1. FIRST 24 HOURS OF CEASEFIRE SHOWED MIXED RESULTS. BEIRUT HAS BEEN FAIRLY QUIET, WITH SPORADIC FIRING, SNIPING, AND KIDNAPPING MARRING PICTURE WHICH OTHERWISE MUCH IMPROVED. ALEY-KAHLE FRONT EXPERIENCED SOME SHELLING. METN BATTLEGROUND WAS FAIRLY HOT THROUGH MUCH OF APRIL 2. LEFTISTS IN METN ATTACKED AINTOURA AND CAPTURED AT LEAST PART OF TOWN. SOME OBSERVERS THINK KATAEB WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY COUNTER-ATTACK IN THAT BATTLE, BECAUSE AINTOURA IS STRATEGIC LOCATION FROM WHICH LEFTISTS COULD THREATEN BIKFAYA. THIS POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN CEASEFIRE IS FAILING, BECAUSE IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT TRUCE INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR CAPITAL ALONE. ALTHOUGH CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT PUT IN SUCH TERMS, ITS RATIONALE WAS THAT PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE TEN DAYS OF SECURE CONDITIONS TO WORK OUT POLITICAL SOLUTION.

2. HOW TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR PARLIAMENT SESSION IS BECOMING FIRST POLITICAL ARGUMENT OF TRUCE PERIOD. PLA TROOPS COULD BE USED, BUT CHAMOUN SAYS HE WON'T ATTEND UNLESS LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS ARE USED INSTEAD. OTHER CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS MAY ADOPT SIMILAR STANCE. COMPROMISE CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT IS TO HAVE GEN. AHDAB ROUND UP TROOPS BELONGING AT LEAST NOMINALLY TO LEBANESE ARMY FOR SECURITY OF IMMEDIATE PERIMETER OF PARLIAMENT. PLA WOULD BE STATIONED SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY. JUMBLATT HAS GOTTEN INTO ACT BY ISSUING STATEMENT ASKING KARAME TO USE HIS POWERS TO CALL IN PLA TROOPS, BUT PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT ACTED ON SUGGESTION. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT NAJI JAMIL WILL COME FROM DAMASCUS SHORTLY TO
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REVIVE JOINT LEBANESE/SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN TRUCE COMMITTEES, OR SOMETHING RESEMBLING THEM, AS ORGANISM FOR SECURITY. SPEAKER KAMAL AL-ASSAD IS WORKING FOR A PARLIAMENTARY SESSION NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 6. MEANWHILE, THIS ARGUMENT ON SUBSIDIARY ISSUE OF PROTECTING MEETING IS CONSUMING VITAL TIME. QUESTION ALREADY BEING RAISED WHETHER TEN DAYS IS ENOUGH.

3. SAEB SALAM GOES TO DAMASCUS TODAY. HIS MISSION IS BILLED HERE AS EFFORT TO SOFTEN SYRIANS ON JUMBLATT AND ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF RAYMOND EDDE. SAIQA HAS ISSUED A NEW STATEMENT CRITICAL OF JUMBLATT, INDICATING DAMASCUS IS CONTINUING ITS HARD-HITTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. EDDE TOLD SOME FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS YESTERDAY THAT HE IS NOT A CANDIDATE, BUT POLITICIANS ARE ACTING ON ASSUMPTION HE IS DEFINITELY RUNNING.

4. AMB. BROWN'S MISSION REMAINS AT FOREFRONT OF POLITICAL ATTENTION. LEFTIST AND PRO-PALESTINIAN DAILY "AL-MUHARRIR" EDITORIALIZED TODAY FAVORABLY ON THE AMB'S MISSION, NOTING PARTICULARLY THAT HE SEEMS WILLING TO LEAVE CHOICE OF NEXT PRESIDENT TO THE LEBANESE. SOME SIDE ATTENTION BEING ATTRACTED BY REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO RADIO ISRAEL THAT COUVE DE MURVILLE MAY RETURN TO LEBANON IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

5. PRIME MINISTER KARAME RECEIVED AMBASSADORS OF ARAB COUNTRIES YESTERDAY. IN PUBLIC STATEMENT AFTERWARD, KARAME PUT THE MEETING IN CONTEXT OF HIS CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF LEBANESE CRISIS.
BROWN

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